

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR/FAO

SUBJECT: WFC-AGRICULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DISCUSSION BEGUN ON AGRICULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS. GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS CLEAR ON NEED DEVOTE MORE RESOURCES TO AGRICULTURE AND ON IMPORTANCE FOLLOW-UP MCHANISM. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, QUESTIONED NEED FOR NEW INSTITUTION WHILE LDCS CONCENTRATED ON NEED FOR NEW EXTERNAL FINANCING REGARDLESS OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, SAYED MAREI OPENED SEPT 17 MEETING AND SPOKE TO DELEGATIONS ON HIS PROPOSED WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY. IN OPEN MEETING, MAREI DID NOT DEVIATE FROM PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN CHAPTER 20 OF WFC SECRETARIAT'S DOCUMENT E/CONF.65/4 OF AUGUST 1974, THOUGH IT HAD BEEN RUMORED THAT HE WAS BACKING OFF FROM ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. U.S. DELEGATE RAISED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO START DEBATE REGRDING MAREI'S PROPOSAL: (1) WHY ARE NEW INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED AND HOW HAS THIS NEED, IF THERE IS A NEED, BEEN DEMONSTRATED? (2) CAN NEW FUND PROPOSALS, STARTING FROM SCRATCH, DO BETTER JOB THAN EXPERIENCED EXISTING INSTITUTIONS? AND(3) CAN NEW INSTITUTIONS OR ORGANIZATION REALLY ATTRACT MORE NEW RESOURCES THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE?

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3. LENGTHY DISCUSSION ENSUED WITH NUMEROUS DONOR COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, AND AUSTRALIA ASKING SIMILARLY HARD QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY COULD NOT EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE THE NECESSARY WFC FOLLOW-UP? LEAST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SEEMED INTERESTED IN MAREI'S PROPOSAL PRIMARILY AS VEHICLE THAT MIGHT ATTRACT NEW FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. NO PROMISE OF ARAB MONEY APPEARED IN HAND, THOUGH SULTANATE OF OMAN INDICATED AN INTEREST IN ASSISTING LDC AGRICULTURE BY ARAB OIL PRODUCING STATES. HE DID NOT QUANTIFY THIS INTEREST NOR SAY FOR WHICH STATES HE WAS SPEAKING.

4. U.S.POINTED OUT THAT FOOD PROBLEM IN LDCS IS BROADER THAN THE NEED FOR MORE MONEY. THAT AFTER ALL, DONOR COUNTRIES CAN ONLY SUPPLEMENT THE FUNDS OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, AND THAT AS THW WFC AGENDA SUGGESTS, FUNDS ARE ONLY A PIECE OF A COMPLICATED INTEGRATED PACKAGE.

5. JAPAN INTRODUCED A PROPOSAL FOR AN IMPROVED INFORMATION SYSTEM. PROPOSAL SAME AS REPORTED REFTTEL ROME 12710 COVERING OECD/PARIS MEETING ON 12-13 SEPTEMBER.

6. PERU'S UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER WITHDRAWN AND NEW DRAFT TO BE RESUBMITTED. MEXICO TO OFFER DETAILS OF PROPOSED "WORLD BANK OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL INPUTS SUPPLY FUND" ON WEDNESDAY. APPEARS THAT PROPOSALS MADE BY SRI LANKA (WORLD FERTILIZER FUND), SIERRA LEONE (AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND) AND BANGLADESH (WORLD FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL) MAY BE SUPERSEDED BY MAREI'S PROPOSAL, BUT DISCUSSION CONTINUES AND NO PROPOSAL YET WITHDRAWN. EFFORTS TO GET CONFERENCE TO ZERO IN ON SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS IN LIEU OF VARIOUS OTHER PROPOSALS TO NO AVAIL THUS FAR. IDEAS FOR MEXICO AND SRI LANKA'S PROPOSALS SAID TO HAVE ORIGINATED AT HIGH LEVEL, SO APPEARS TO BE NO HOPE OF QUICK WITHDRAWAL.

7. GENERAL AGREEMENT BY BOTH DCS AND LDCS THAT MORE RESOURCES, BOTH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL, ARE NEEDED IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. BEYOND THIS POINT IDEAS FAN OUT INTO DIVERGENT PATHS. END VOLPE

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